



Proposed SB-326
Committee on Public Health
PUBLIC HEARING: 2/22/2017

Proposed Senate Bill 326 -- AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORDS AND THE FEES CHARGED FOR MEDICAL RECORDS.

February 21, 2017

To the members of the Public Health Committee

Please accept our testimony as follows.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released their Person and Family Engagement Strategy. CMS states that they want “individuals to have evidence-based tools and information from an array of modalities that are meaningful when making decisions about their health.” To support and encourage this goal, and for many other reasons, a patient’s own medical records should be readily and easily accessible to them and not cost them any more than a minimal amount. For this reason, we object to the excessive costs spelled out in SB-326.

However, this practical and moral argument is superseded by the clear fact that there is Federal Law, the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, that clearly specifies how much may be charged for an electronic copy of a patient’s electronic health records when requested. The amounts delineated in SB-326 are by-and-large in conflict with and much higher than amounts allowed by this Federal Act. In Congress’ effort to promote patient access to their medical records, they were quite clear and the language of this proposed bill directly conflicts with and violates Federal law which supersedes State law.

We object to the proposed bill and request that you do not support SB-326 for the above stated reasons.

I thank you, in advance, for considering our concerns.

Respectfully,
Lisa Freeman
Executive Director, Connecticut Center for Patient Safety